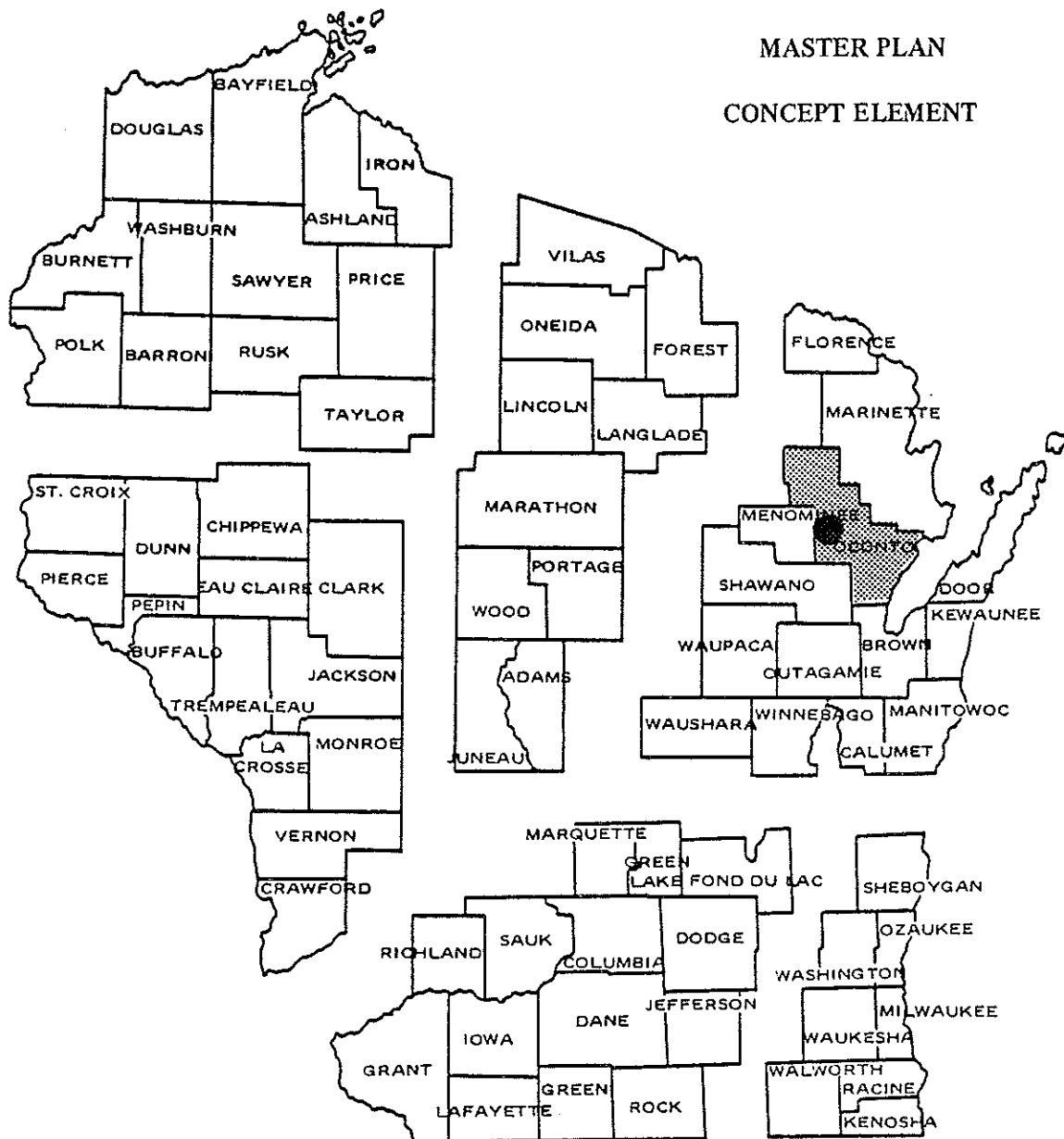


SOUTH BRANCH, OCONTO RIVER  
FISHERY AREA  
OCONTO COUNTY

MASTER PLAN  
CONCEPT ELEMENT



Property Task Force

Leader - MILTON BURDICK - FISH MANAGER  
LEROY LINTEREUR - WILDLIFE MANAGER  
PHIL ANDERSON - FORESTER

Approved:

*C.D. Besadny* 6-5-82  
C.D. Besadny - Secretary Date







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## SECTION I - ACTIONS

### GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS

#### Goals

To obtain land control, and to manage, preserve and protect all property within the boundary of the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area in Oconto County; to enhance the area as a high quality fishery and to provide habitat to foster a variety of other recreational and educational pursuits.

#### Annual Objectives

1. Provide opportunities for 7,000 participant days of fishing for brook and brown trout.
2. Provide 1,000 participant days of hunting for gun and archery white-tailed deer, waterfowl, ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, cottontail, and squirrel.
3. Provide opportunities for 200 participant days of trapping for muskrat, beaver, mink and otter.

#### Additional Annual Benefits

1. Provide 160 days of other recreational and educational uses including mushroom and berry picking, hiking, nature study, bird watching and photography.
2. Benefit nongame species, including endangered or threatened species that may be native or migrate through the area.
3. Manage vegetative cover compatibly with the goals of fish and wildlife to provide 250 cords of firewood and pulpwood, and 20,000 board feet of lumber from 859 acres of timbered lands, while maintaining the aesthetic nature of the property especially in the stream corridor.

### RECOMMENDED MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The recommended management for the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area will favor the protection and improvement of trout habitat to increase fishing opportunities.

The present approved acreage goal is 1,257.4 acres, and includes all land within the boundary. No increase in the acreage goal is being requested at this time. Purchase of the remaining 811.44 acres will be dependent upon available funds and willing sellers (Fig. 2). High priority should be given to the purchase of 148.34 acres of lands presently under the second and last renewal of leases which will run out in 1991, 1992, and 1993. Although the leases involve narrow stream bank strips of land, every attempt will be made to obtain the entire parcel. All past and future land acquisition has been, and will be, from willing sellers.

A state-owned 80-acre parcel is adjacent to, and outside of the boundary. The task force recommends that for the present, the boundary not be expanded to include the parcel, but that it be considered for trade purposes for lands within the approved boundary. Later, if necessary, it can be considered for inclusion within the fishery area.

Trout habitat will be improved with the installation of half logs where cover is scarce, especially in the upper portion of the project stream (Fig. 3). A total of about four miles of stream would be involved in this activity at a cost of approximately \$9,600.00. Future changes in the habitat may require more intensive development such as installation of bank covers.

Three large stream structures (20 years old) are no longer functional and should be replaced. Three high banks are badly eroded and will have to be riprapped. Total cost is estimated at \$20,000. Removal of the structures will not be environmentally damaging.

Originally the fishery area had many cattle crossing and watering stations. In recent years many farmers have created feed lots so the number of stations has been reduced to eight (Fig. 3). They must be installed each spring and removed in the fall as winter ice and spring floods damage the structures. This annual activity requires two men, five days in spring and fall.

The majority of the lands within the boundary that might be affected by cattle grazing have been fenced, but old cedar fence posts should be replaced with metal. All land purchased should involve the survey of property lines. The lines should be brushed and properly marked at intervals with steel posts. Fences will not be installed unless requested by the adjoining property owner.

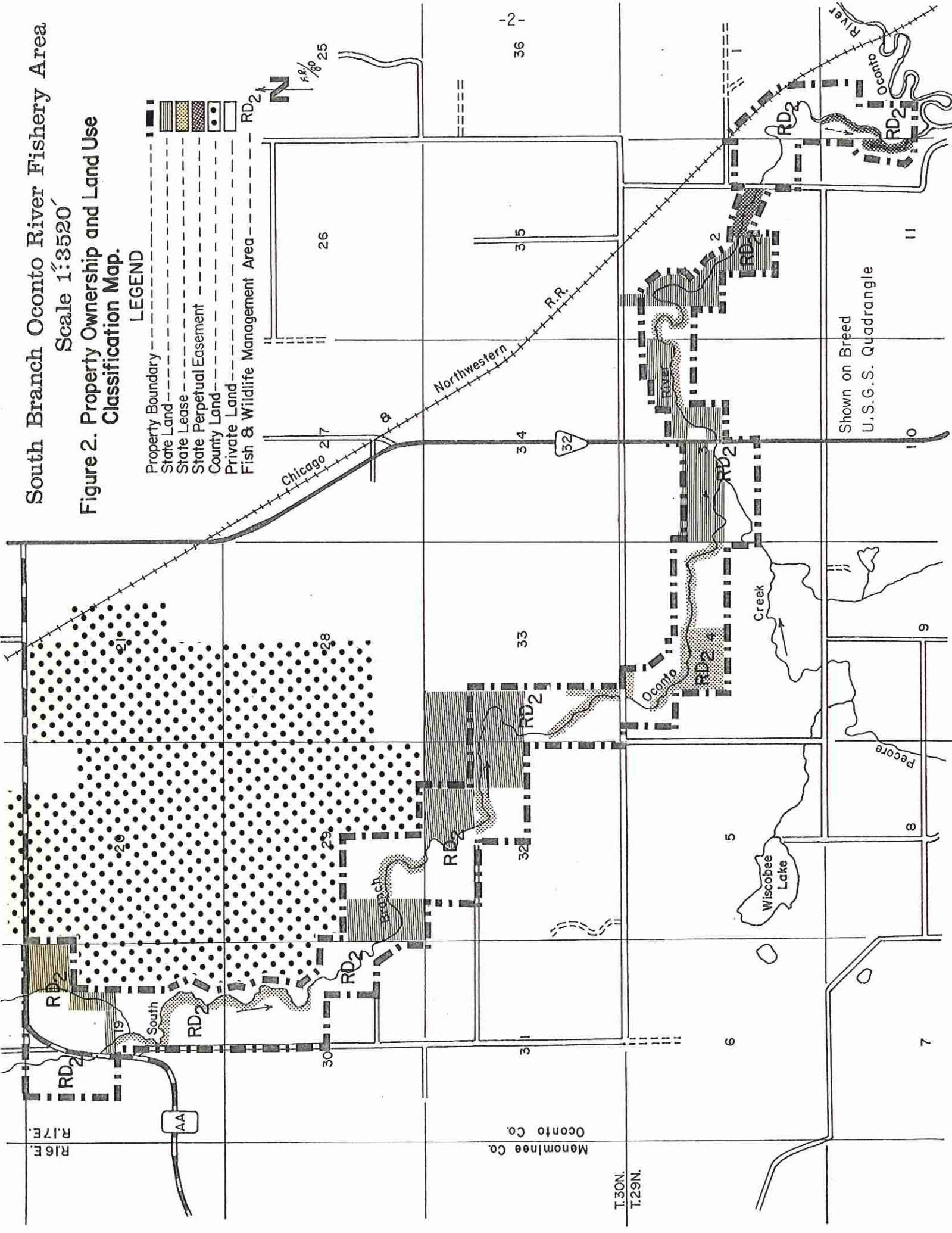




South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area  
 Scale 1"=3520'  
 Figure 2. Property Ownership and Land Use  
 Classification Map.

LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- State Land - - - - -
- State Lease - - - - -
- State Perpetual Easement - - - - -
- County Land - - - - -
- Private Land - - - - -
- Fish & Wildlife Management Area - - - - -





Two new access and parking areas are proposed for a total of seven sites. Town roads and county trails provide additional public access. The new sites should be constructed with a gravel parking area to accommodate six cars.

Overnight camping has been noted on the opening weekend of fishing season and on some weekends during the summer. Camping should be prohibited and "No Camping" signs posted.

Signs will be erected to designate the property boundary of the fishery area as soon as property lines have been surveyed. To date, posting has been minimal.

The basis of wildlife management will be the manipulation of cover types. The extant types in the unit lend themselves well to management, and to the conventional schedule and methods outlined below.

Aspen will be cut in segments not to exceed 10 acres, and in no case will the remnant basal area exceed 10 percent. This will assure maximum production and harvest of forest wildlife, particularly ruffed grouse and deer.

The 305 acres of fields will be sharecropped as intensively as possible. Oats, alfalfa and corn will be the normal rotation, with the sharecropper receiving 100% of oats, all alfalfa save a strip along the edge of the field, and 80% of the corn. Species to benefit from this will be pheasants (the clubs stock this area heavily), deer, and nongame, such as bluejays, goldfinches, and red-polls. If at all possible, herbicides should not be used, and cutting of both alfalfa and corn carried out as late as possible, with the cutting time jointly agreed upon by the sharecropper and property manager.

The oak-scrub oak forest will be intensively managed for acorns and perpetuation of this valuable type. Cutting should be restricted to a minimum, with an effort made to realize the maximum amount of edge although some cutting may be needed to permit sunlight to penetrate to promote growth.

All lanes related to timber sales should be carefully constructed, and of the "permanent" variety. They will then become a base for the interior management of each stand. Edge and border species will be encouraged. They will be planted to Dutch White and Alsike clover, and whenever possible, gated permanently. Areas without timber sale potential will be surveyed. These will then be, when deemed necessary, traversed with a pattern of lanes serving the same function as main lines in the timber sale units.

The feasibility of deer yard management in the conifer types will be investigated. If a potential exists, cutting of conifers will be restricted to maximum age dictated by the cutting cycle and increase of browse species by manipulating soft and mountain maple.

A forest management plan and harvest schedule based on forest reconnaissance will be developed when the majority of fishing area lands are under state ownership. Opportunities to promote the growth of big trees will be considered in specified areas of compatible timber stands.

All areas proposed for development will be examined for the presence of endangered and threatened wild animals and wild plants. If listed species are found, development will be suspended until the District Endangered and Nongame Species Coordinator is consulted, the site evaluated, and appropriate protective measures taken.

A complete biological inventory of the property will be conducted as funds permit. Additional property objectives may be developed following completion of such an inventory.

## SECTION II - SUPPORT DATA BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The South Branch, Oconto River originates from several branches in Oconto and Langlade Counties. After they combine, the stream dips briefly into Menominee County. The fishery area commences almost at the Menominee-Oconto County line, and includes 11.1 miles of stream to where the north and south branches of the Oconto merge immediately above Suring. The combined streams form the Main Oconto River, and it flows directly into Green Bay as part of the Great Lakes drainage.

By the time the South Branch, Oconto River reaches the location of the fishery area, the stream averages over 50 feet in width. Despite the great distance from its origins, the water in the stream during the summer throughout the fishery area is ideal for growth of trout. Natural reproduction of brook trout takes place as well as brown trout to a more limited extent. The stream has many deep holes that made it difficult to survey with electro-fishing gear. As a result, surveys show only a portion of the trout in the stream. However, the popularity of the stream to anglers attests to its fine trout population.



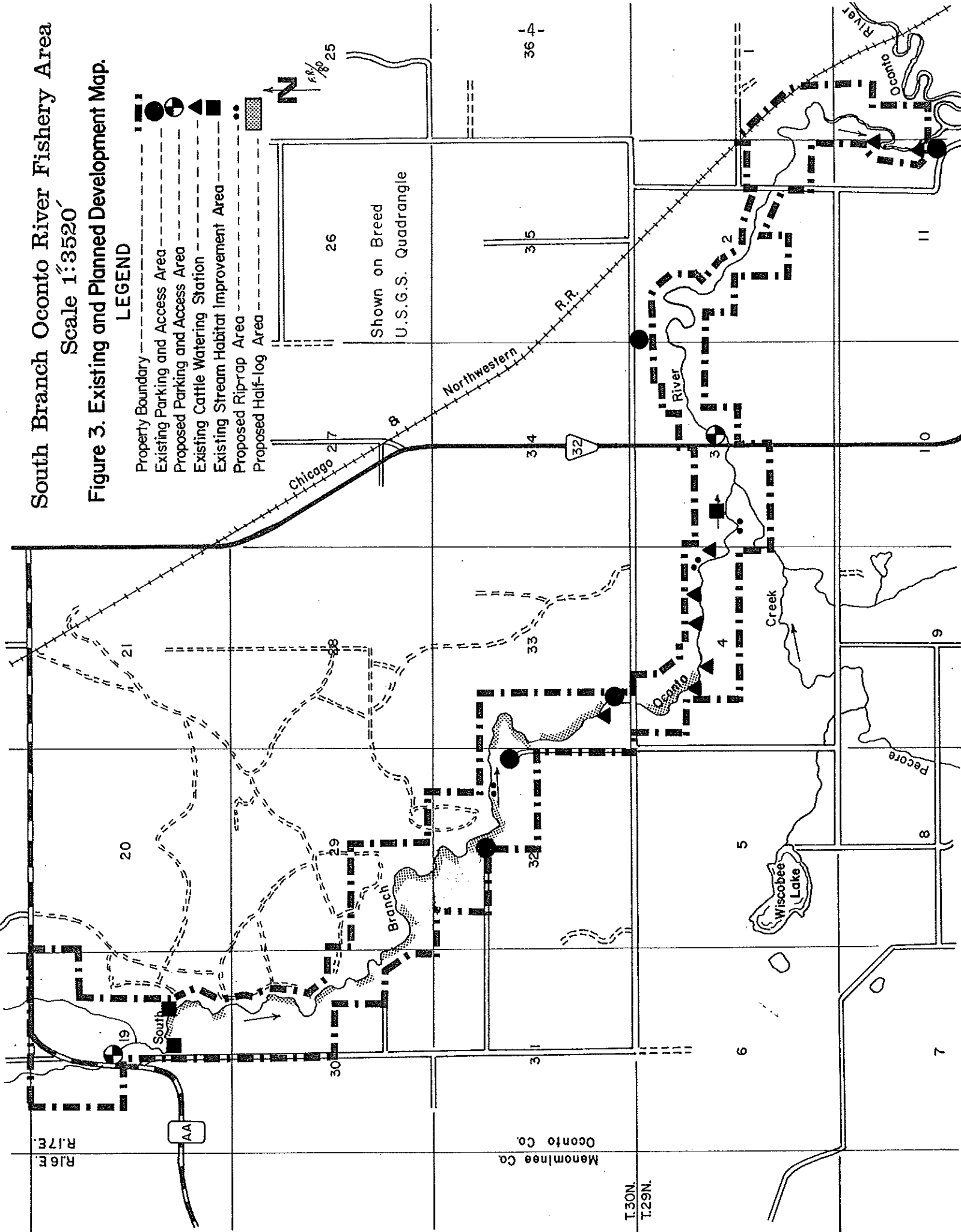
# South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area

Scale 1"=3520'

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

## LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Existing Parking and Access Area - ● -
- Proposed Parking and Access Area - ⊕ -
- Existing Cattle Watering Station - ▲ -
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement Area - ■ -
- Proposed Riprap Area - ●● -
- Proposed Half-log Area - ▨ -





This property was originally designated as a Watershed Demonstration area. Started in the early 1950's, the general purpose was to assure public access and to protect the resource. In 1951, the Oconto County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution declaring that a strip of land one rod wide on both banks of the South Branch, Oconto River flowing through County lands shall be withheld from all sale or exchange to provide public access. In addition, various parcels of land have been purchased or leased. Cattle were fenced from the stream, watering stations installed, trees planted, and several eroded banks repaired. In later years, some cedar fence posts were replaced with metal posts. In 1961 the property was officially designated as a Fisheries Area by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission with an authorized acreage goal of 1,257.4 acres.

To date, 411.62 acres have been purchased in fee title at a cost of \$64,900 and 34.34 acres under perpetual easement at a cost of \$4,379.60. Additionally, 148.34 acres were obtained with short term leases for a period of 20 years with an option to renew for another 20 year period. At the present time, these leases have been renewed for the second 20 year period, and each involves a narrow strip of land along the river bank. Approximately five miles of stream are leased and should be purchased. Through purchase, lease, and easement, the state controls the river banks for approximately ten of the 11.1 miles of stream within the fishery area boundary.

A state-owned 80 acre parcel lies immediately outside of the property boundary. It blocks in very well with state property to the south within the boundary and county lands to the north. In the future, the boundary may be changed to include this parcel but for the present, the land will be retained for trading purposes.

Current management activities of the South Branch Fishery Area involve negotiations toward the purchase of lands from willing sellers, especially those stream bank strips of land under 20-year lease. Efforts continue to purchase larger parcels of land rather than just the narrow, leased strip. Firewood permits are being issued for dead elms threatening fence lines. Cattle watering stations were recently repaired. A stream survey was completed in July, 1977. The most recent activity was the installation of 40 half logs by the Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited. This organization has also contributed \$250.00 towards materials.

The portion of the South Branch, Oconto River within the fishery area has not been stocked since 1968. Prior to that time it was stocked annually with brook, brown, and occasionally rainbow trout. Legal brown trout presently outnumber brook trout on a ratio of two to one. No detailed creel census has been conducted; however, fishing pressure appears to be moderate to heavy, based on spot checks and in talks with local sportsmen.

## RESOURCE CAPABILITIES AND INVENTORY

### Soils, Geology and Hydrology

Bedrock of the South Branch project is of Upper Cambrian age, consisting of sandstones, shales, and dolomite, the latter of lower magnesian age.

Like all of northeastern Wisconsin, the area is heavily glaciated. Ground moraines, terraces, and occasional kettles dominate the topography. The drift in some areas exceeds 300 feet. The area can be characterized as having relatively slight relief and a mildly acidic substrate.

The parent materials of the soils are dominantly transported loamy, reddish, glacial drift deposits. Within the soil association, Onaway and Underhill loams are the major soil series. These can be referred to as medium acid on the surface and are calcareous in the substrate. These are relatively fertile soils. Locally within the boundary, depending upon relief and geology, soil conditions vary.

The terraces, particularly those along the river, have soils of organic origins, related to typical sedge peat and muck soils. There are areas of blow sand characterized by a degraded soil condition where dark surface soils and mucky organic matter have deteriorated and given way to an acid sandy soil condition.

The area receives about 26 inches of precipitation per year. Groundwater reservoirs and remote aquifers are presently high, with no probability of depletion.

### Fish and Wildlife

Fish - The fish population is characteristic of a cold water fishery. In addition to brook and brown trout, some forage and rough fish have been observed. The most common species found are the mottled sculpin, white sucker, hog sucker, longnose dace, blacknose dace and pearl dace. Natural reproduction of brook trout is found throughout most of the stream within the boundary but brown trout reproduction is not abundant. Since browns actually outnumber brook trout on a ratio of 2:1, it is suspected that they move into the area from upstream.

A detailed survey of the stream took place in July, 1977 and covered 5.1 miles, or 32.95 acres of stream. Despite the fact that the portions of stream surveyed contain many holes that are impossibly deep for electro-fishing equipment, a total of 328 brook trout from 2.0 to 12.4 inches, and 227 brown trout from 2.0 to 19.0 inches were taken, attesting to the fine trout population present.





Birds - The area has within its boundaries every type of cover common to that section of the state. The cover along the stream is rich and profuse. There is abundant edge between the fields, forest, and stream proper. It can be assumed the bird (and mammal life) is correspondingly rich. About 135 species of birds inhabit the forest and field areas in Oconto County, and it is surely reasonable that, in a given cycle of years, most could be found breeding on the area.

Mammals - All major wildlife species common to northeastern Wisconsin can be found here including cotton-tails, white-tailed deer, black bear, red and gray squirrels, snowshoe hares, and bobcats. Furbearers include muskrat, mink, red foxes, otter and beaver.

Forty mammal species are found here including such small mammals as short-tail shrews, masked shrews, meadow mice, and whitefoot mice.

#### Vegetative Cover

As an aid to systematic scheduled management, the fishery area has been divided into seven forest compartments. Forested land comprises 64.1% of the project acreage, cultivated and idle fields, 24.2%, and upland brush and grass, 6.1% (Fig. 4 and Table 1). A Forest Reconnaissance has been completed only on lands presently under State of Wisconsin ownership.

The objectives in management of the forest lands will be to:

- (1) maintain and enhance the quality of the stream by controlling erosion, and by protecting bank cover and spring seeps.
- (2) improve the condition and productivity of the forest consistent with fishery area goals which are to manage and protect all property within the boundary.
- (3) harvest mature timber; and
- (4) maintain and improve wildlife habitat.

When possible these objectives will be accomplished by commercial timber sales. Specific figures on volumes and harvesting schedules are not included as part of this plan. Once the major portion of the fishery area is under State ownership, management and harvest schedules can be developed. Until that time, forest management decisions will be made on a stand by stand basis from information obtained in the compartment reconnaissance.

Table 1 - Cover types in the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area, Oconto County

<u>Cover type</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>% of Area</u>
Aspen	259	20.6
Swamp Hardwood	245	19.5
Northern Hardwood	165	13.1
Oak/Scrub Oak	54	4.3
Swamp Conifers	46	3.7
Red Pine/Jack Pine	36	2.9
Upland Grass	20	1.6
Upland Brush	57	4.5
Field	305	24.2
Water	10	5.6
Totals	1,257	100

#### Endangered and Threatened Species

At the present time, no endangered or threatened species of fish, molluscs, mammals, birds, reptiles, or wild plants are known to exist on the fishery area. In 1978, a nesting wood turtle, an endangered species was found in the SW 1/4, SW 1/4 Section 29, T30N, R17E within the boundary. All areas of development will also be examined for the presence or absence of endangered and threatened species and appropriate protective measures will be taken. When such species are found during any future development, construction will be suspended until the District Endangered and Nongame Species Coordinator is consulted. Then the locations will be evaluated and protective measures taken.

#### Surface Water Resources

The South Branch originates in Langlade and Oconto Counties and flows southeasterly into the Menominee Reservation, and back into Oconto County to merge with the North Branch to form the main Oconto River. It is fed by several small lakes, springs, and numerous trout streams. Within the boundary there are some spring seeps but very few large feeders, with the exception of Pecore Creek.



The South Branch flows at a moderate velocity, with a rather low gradient of 4.5 feet per mile. The predominant bottom types are sand, gravel and rubble. Beds of *Elodea* are most prevalent with lesser amounts of *Vallisneria*, *Sagittaria*, and *Potamogetons*. The food grade is excellent with a great variety and abundance of ~~Invertebrates~~ present. Instream cover is somewhat lacking in the upper portion, but deep holes provide adequate cover in the lower portion.

The stream within the boundary has stained, hard water (MPA = 125 ppm) which is slightly alkaline (pH = 7.2). With the exception of agricultural runoff and some enrichment from cattle watering areas, no other sources of pollution are known in the watershed. Most of the area has been fenced to eliminate cattle from the stream.

The stream is classified as Class II trout water for 3.5 miles from where it merges with the North Branch upstream to Highway 32 and Class I the 7.6 miles from Highway 32 to the upper end of the fishery area (Figure 4 and Table 2). Pecore Creek, Class II water, flows northeasterly and enters the South Branch about one-fourth mile above Highway 32. One-quarter mile of Pecore Creek is within the boundary.

Table 2 - Water Areas Within The South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area

<u>Name</u>	<u>Length-Miles</u>	<u>Trout Class</u>
South Branch, Oconto River	7.6	I
South Branch, Oconto River	3.5	II
Pecore Creek	0.25	II
Totals	11.35	

#### Historical and Archaeological Features

No archaeological sites are known to be located in this fishery area, and it has not been surveyed for historical or architectural significance. For this reason the State Historical Society should be contacted prior to any movement of soils or structures.

#### Ownership

The approved acreage includes all lands within the authorized boundary and totals 1,257.40 acres. Through purchase and lease, the state controls 445.96 acres at a cost of \$69,280. Stream frontage control to date covers about 10 of the 11.1 miles of stream. An 80-acre parcel is owned outside of the boundary and will be considered for trade purposes.

A number of short term leases, involving 148.34 acres, are narrow strips along the stream bank. They were obtained for 20 years with an option for a second 20-year renewal. They have been renewed for the second 20-year period, but, unless these lands can be purchased, they will revert to the owners when the leases terminate. It is, therefore, imperative that these leased strips, and preferably all the land out to the authorized boundary, be purchased. These leases involve 12 landowners.

#### Current Use

The South Branch, Oconto Fishery Area is primarily used by trout fishermen, especially those from the Fox River Valley throughout the summer. Hunting for deer, squirrel, grouse, pheasant, foxes and rabbits are other activities noted. Although the use is not high, there are some who pick berries and mushrooms, ski, camp, hike and snowmobile. The gentle stream gradient has attracted canoeists. This activity should be monitored carefully to determine possible use conflicts.

#### Land Use Potential

The South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area is a narrow strip of mainly forested lands located in an agricultural area. The size (1,257.40 acres) and location limit the land use potentials for the property. This entire fishery project should be designated as a Fish and Wildlife Management Area--RD 2 (Fig. 2). The waters contain natural habitat for trout, and the woodlands have the general characteristics to perpetuate game and nongame wildlife. No natural or scientific areas have been noted within the fishery area.

### MANAGEMENT PROBLEMS

The 20 year leases (148.34 acres) involve considerable stream frontage (Fig. 2). They were renewed for a second 20 year, and all leases will run out in 1991, 1992, and 1993. Several of these leases are located in the upper portion, involve small parcels of land, and have summer cottages. Leases in the lower section concern some farm lands.

Present trout habitat conditions range from good to excellent within the property boundary. Instream cover is scarce in some portions of the upper section. Several high banks have eroded. Three large instream devices are 20 years old, in very poor condition, and are doing more damage than good.



State lands adjacent to pastured areas have been fenced. Some property lines have been surveyed but do not have a boundary fence. Proposed access sites have not been surveyed.

Recreational activities, especially fishing and canoeing, have increased. Few department signs have been installed, and camping has not been encouraged.

Overuse of the area is not a problem at this time but could be in the near future.

#### RECREATIONAL NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION

The 1980 population of Oconto County was 28,947. Most of this population is in the southern part of the county, where very few trout streams can be found. The South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area is, therefore, available for recreational uses by these people in less than an hour's drive. The neighboring county to the south, Brown County, has a population of 175,280 and only one trout stream and the area is within an hour's drive for Brown County residents.

The increasing recreational use of the fishery area by residents of Oconto and Brown Counties and other adjacent counties would certainly justify the management of this public land. Acquisition of remaining parcels within the boundary is paramount.

Additionally, the Wisconsin Outdoor Recreation Plan (1977) lists Oconto County as a part of Recreation Planning Region 9 with Marinette, Menominee, and Shawano Counties. The recreation plan cites the following need for fishing within Region 9:

"To protect surface water resources and the quality recreation experience associated with them, government agencies must be committed to: a) securing lake and river frontage wherever it is available, and b) protecting and improving the quality of every body of water with recreation potential."

By 1990 demands for public lands for recreation will increase considerably. With possible increasing gasoline prices, the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area is in an ideal location and a short drive for the people of the Fox Valley.

#### ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

##### Do Nothing

If all management practices were suspended, deterioration of fish habitat would occur in future years. The fence and eight cattle watering stations would not be repaired, and cattle would be free to roam and destroy the river banks. Eroded banks would hasten the destruction of trout habitat. Our present ownership parcels are isolated by private lands. Increased public use will overflow onto private lands and cause a serious public relations problem.

##### Enlarge The Fishery Area

The present boundary permits a sufficient buffer between private lands and the stream. Approximately one mile of stream in Oconto County is outside the present boundary upstream. It involves 160 acres and is located between the eastern edge of the Menominee County and County Trunk AA. This portion may be proposed for inclusion in the fishery area in future years but at this time is not vital to the property.

Enlargement of the boundary to the south and west would involve expensive agricultural lands and add little protection to the trout stream. A good portion of the upper section on the northeast side is owned by Oconto County. This public ownership provides several square miles of wildlife habitat and takes some of the hunting pressure off the lands within the boundary.

A state-owned 80-acre parcel presently outside of the approved boundary may be considered for future inclusion within the fishery area. At present, it will be reserved for trading purposes.

##### Reduce The Fishery Area

The fishery area was set up after considerable public relations work with the general public, sportsmen, and units of government. Any reduction in size would cause a serious public relations problem with those who endorsed the area. It would also be impossible to reach the stated goals and objectives if the area was reduced. Reduction in size would be contrary to the property goal set by the Wisconsin Conservation Commission in 1961.



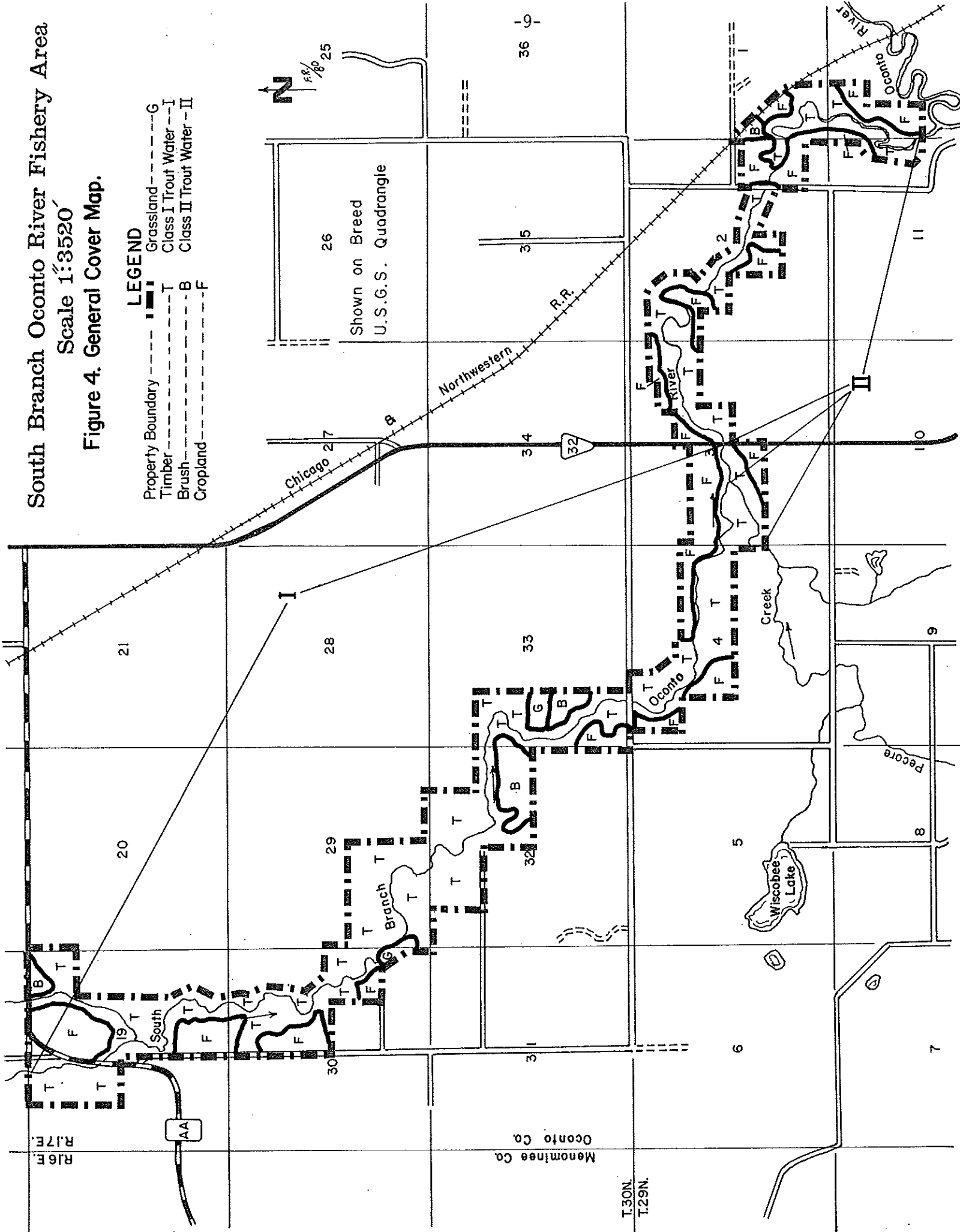
# South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area

Scale 1":3520'

Figure 4. General Cover Map.

## LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Timber - - - - -
- Brush - - - - -
- Cropland - - - - -
- Grassland - - - - -
- Class I Trout Water - - - - -
- Class II Trout Water - - - - -











## Appendix - Responses from Outside Reviewing Agencies

A number of responses to the 45-day review copy of the master plan were received from outside reviewing agencies. Their comments, and DNR responses, where appropriate, follow:

Mr. Carl G. Zimmerman, Chairman, Town of Breed, Oconto County, Wisconsin.

In reference to the Master Plan Review - South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area.

The Town Board of the Town of Breed has went on record as opposing this project.

At our monthly meeting which was held at the Breed Town Hall, Tuesday evening, March 9, 1982, at 8:00 p.m., a motion was made and seconded by the Town Board opposing the adoption of this project.

The general consensus of the Town Board is to the fact that the Town of Breed would be losing a considerable amount of revenue in taxes if this property was surrendered for the above mentioned project.

Several of the property owners living along the South Branch of the Oconto River were present at our last town meeting opposing the adoption of this project. They feel it would be a hinderence on their privacy, and also their property adjacent to this project.

Many of the property owners with adjacent property to the river have had confrontations with the public in regards to respect of property.

In the past few years we have been cut in our Federal Revenue Sharing, and also our State Revenue Sharing. The property owners of the Town of Breed have to share more of the tax burden each year.

DNR response: When this project was first suggested, back in the early 50's, town and county boards, sportsmen's clubs and area fishermen were contacted - all endorsed the project. The Suring Sportsmen's Club held a meeting with DNR fisheries men on March 31, 1982. The public was also invited. No opposition to the project was received.

Fish management personnel have been in contact with many of the property owners within the project boundary periodically over the past many years and have received very few complaints regarding the project.

Mr. Forest Stearns, Chairman, Scientific Areas Preservation Council.

We have one recommendation for the Concept Element, Master Plan, South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area.

An area on the south bank of the river, just east of Highway 32 and downstream from about 1/4 mile was evaluated by Scientific Areas staff and listed as a natural area of county or multi-county significance. It consists of hemlock-



hardwood and northern hardwood forest which has been used for soils and vegetation demonstration purposes by classes of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and also by local forestry personnel. We, therefore, suggest that the land use classifications be altered from Resource Development to Public Use Natural Area for this 30-40 acre tract as shown on the enclosed copy of an aerial photo.

The site is particularly valuable for demonstration purposes due to its accessibility and also its contrasting forest types and soil profiles.

DNR response: A response to Mr. Stearns' memo to James Addis, dated March 2, 1982, concerning the land use classification of the Schuettpeitz tract of the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area (SWNE, Sec. 3, T29N, R17E).

The task force, and in particular the forest manager, feels that this tract should not be locked-up by classing it as a Public Use Natural Area, which generally prohibits timber cutting other than salvage following "extensive natural disaster."

This tract has a high multi-use potential educationally, which in our opinion exceeds all other values. The timber type is not "unique" in this area; however, the stand and stand quality, in public ownership with good access, is unique. The task force would not be opposed to a no-cut - beyond salvage demonstration area of perhaps 5 acres, but in combination with that we would prefer to see another 5-acre parcel managed for Big Tree Silviculture and the remainder designated for sound silvicultural selective management based on basal area controls.

The site offers excellent opportunity to demonstrate various in-stream structures - diggers, deflectors, crossings, etc.

What makes this such a unique situation is the potential access for public use, being right on Wis. Hwy 32. Critical to this access is the acquisition of the 1 (±) acre lot in the southwest corner of the property which presently limits access to the south side of the river - 75% of property adjacent to this lot, along the south line of the tract, is a small 1½ acre field which would be ideal for an off-road parking area.

A demonstration area of good hardwood management versus no management, along with stream improvement practices, would be very useful educationally to local School Districts and surrounding landowners in the area - in addition to field trips by more distant educational institutions. The site is currently used by Lake Michigan District foresters for training purposes.

Mr. John Fisher, Chairman, Oconto County Conservation Congress, Gillette, WI and Mr. Ray W. Mueller, Gillette Sportsmen's Club.

Should not be left to deteriorate.

Be sure to provide for berry picking, hunting, hiking, and other non-destructive activities, winter and summer.



Contact area Sportsmens' Clubs regarding volunteer help to assist in placing half-logs, rip-rapping, fencing and other improvements.

Prohibit the use of wheeled vehicles - motorcycles, 4 by 4's, etc. Permit a club maintained snowmobile trail if needed, as there is no damage to the terrain. Camping may be allowed in designated areas for a fee to pay for supervision and clean up.

DNR response: We recognized other benefits (berry picking, etc.) on page 1 under "additional benefits". Area clubs have been contacted, the Suring club as recently as March 31, 1982.

Agreed - prohibit 4x4's, etc. off roads.

Snowmobile trail may be needed to get to miles of county lands on the north side of the river; but we do not want snowmobile trails on "strips" of land near the river.

Prefer day use area with no camping. Most "users" come from Fox Valley for the day. No camping on project lands will encourage nearby landowners to set-up a campground and add to the local economy.

Mr. K. F. Nelson, District Chief Planning Engineer, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, District 3, 944 Scenic Way, Green Bay, WI 54304.

The only direct involvement of STH 32 in your plan is a proposed parking area on the east side of the highway, north of the bridge. This proposal is shown on page 4, figure 3 of the report. Our primary concern is the proposed driveway access design. We, therefore, request that the proposed parking lot layout be reviewed by our office prior to your request for driveway access at this location. Please contact Henry Ellison at 414-497-4247 on this matter.

DNR response: Agreed - we will certainly contact DOT as the driveway will be over DOT "Right-of-way" property. We need their expertise on design.

Mr. T. J. Hart, Director, Bureau of Environmental Analysis and Review, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, 4802 Sheboygan Avenue, P. O. Box 7916, Madison.

We have reviewed the above-noted Master Plan and offer the following comments:

1. The proposed parking area located adjacent to STH 32 should be coordinated with Transportation District #3, C. R. Ryan, Director, 944 Scenic Way, Green Bay, Wisconsin 54303, phone (414) 497-4242.
2. The proposed parking area located adjacent to CTH "AA" should be coordinated with the Oconto County Highway Commission.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Master Plan.





DNR response: Will contact DOT for assistance with plans at STH 32 access. Oconto County Highway authorities will be contacted in regard to the proposed access and parking near CTH "AA".

Mr. Frederick A. Gossfield, Suring Sportsmen's Club, Rt.1, Box 33, Suring, WI 54174.

We of the Suring Sportsmen's Club, find in our review of your projected master plan, as aforementioned, the general concept meets with the consensus, as to the plan as a whole. We further find the plan to be of excellent quality and appreciate the effort put forth to prepare it.

The priority of acquisition and maintenance seems to be foremost in the minds of our members.

My personal comment, and the view of some of our members has to do with the feeder streams to the South Branch. It is my feeling that effort must be put forth to preserve the quality of water in these streams. To this time, little has been done. I feel we should preserve and improve these streams and thereby enhance and preserve the integrity of the Oconto River Fishery. Thank you for including us in your review, and feel free to contact us for any help we may render.

DNR response: Pecore Creek is mostly outside of the project boundary, but the task force agrees with the writer that the stream needs to be improved. It is a critical feeder. We may contact the club to work out a stream improvement project with the farmers concerned with Pecore Creek.

Mr. Thomas J. Mertens, President, Green Bay Chapter Trout Unlimited, 1368 Biemeret Street, Green Bay, WI 54304.

We thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the concept element of the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area Master Plan. Since Trout Unlimited's interest is somewhat specific, our comments will address concerns associated with the fishery resource.

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited feels that the South Branch Fishery is one of the best in the near northeast Wisconsin area and is pleased that this resource is being given this special planning/management attention. Our interest and concern is evidenced by the effort we have exerted in stream improvement and related projects on the Oconto River. We wish to see the South Branch become a "quality" fishing area and be managed as such.

Your first objective statement seeks to provide opportunities for fishing. These opportunities should reflect a concern for quality fishing experiences leading to a high degree of user satisfaction. Quality should be measured in terms of numbers and size of fish caught in addition to the inherent aesthetic qualities of fishing the South Branch.

An expression of concern for "quality" opportunities in the Concept Element objective enables catch-and-release, special regulations, and increased stocking programs as viable alternatives for the Implementation aspects of the management plan. The recommended management for the South Branch should favor the protection and improvement of trout habitat to increase not simply fishing



opportunities, but quality fishing experiences that can be realized as a result of plan implementation.

DNR response: The task force agrees with their concerns for quality fishing, but feel the term "opportunities" leaves the door open for any type of management later on if we desire to go to "quality" fishing with special regulations, or other management tools.

Not all cattle watering areas within the project boundary are contained. Efforts should be made to identify these areas and establish additional contained water stations where necessary.

DNR response: On lands state controlled, watering stations are installed if needed. There is one farmer within the fishery area boundary who does not have a watering station, but we do not own the land. When he is willing to sell, we will purchase and install fencing and a watering station.

While overnight camping may be desirable to fishermen utilizing the area, camping should not be encouraged. Opportunities for camping near, but not within the project boundary are limited and the provision of camping opportunities with the project area could lead to congestion and user conflict. Since the South Branch is within a relatively short distance of the population area mentioned in the plan, the Fishery Area might best be managed as a day-use area.

DNR response: Agreed - overnite camping should not be encouraged. Paragraph will be re-written to say:

"Overnite camping has been noted on the opening weekend of fishing season and on some weekends during the summer. Camping should be prohibited and "no camping" signs posted.

We suggest that the project boundary be extended north to the Menominee County line and south to County Highway A and attempts be made for lease arrangements on these additional properties. Both of these additional stretches are excellent trout water and merit inclusion and special attention. The stretch down to County Highway A is probably the best trout water in the area. Not having conducted adequate surveys of these additional stretches, or assessment is subjective, but angler success indicates that these stretches merit special protection and management.

DNR response: As stated in the last sentence, this portion may be included later. There may also be additional lands that may be included or excluded. The task force would prefer to request a boundary change later and include or exclude various parcels with the one request.

To our knowledge, no recent survey work has been conducted by DNR to assess the effects of the half-logs installed. Nor have the present conditions of the fish populations been assessed. Such assessments should be undertaken.

DNR response: A detailed survey was conducted July 1977. Usually several years should elapse before evaluating structures.



Rafting, tubing, and canoeing are legitimate recreational uses of water resources. However, problems and conflicts can arise and lessons learned on other rivers should be anticipated.

DNR response: Agreed. A conflict could arise. The last sentence under "current use" will be changed to: "The gentle stream gradient has attracted canoists. This activity should be monitored carefully to determine possible use conflicts."

The Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited has enjoyed the opportunity to participate in stream project work on the South Branch of the Oconto River. As we near the summer of 1982, we look forward to upcoming stream improvement work on the South Branch. We have found our relationship with the Marinette fisheries people to be enjoyable as well as educational and consider our combined efforts extremely worthwhile.

The Green Bay Chapter stands ready to assist in the protection and improvement of the South Branch Fishery Area in any way we can. We trust you will call upon us whenever assistance is needed.

Again, we thank you for the opportunity to review and comment.

DNR response: The task force wishes to thank the Green Bay Chapter of Trout Unlimited for their many hours of work as well as the donation of money for projects on the South Branch, Oconto River. Working on the fishery areas during the summer on Saturdays, when they could be fishing, is ample proof that the members are sincere and concerned with protecting and improving the trout resource.

Mr. Gregory H. Lamb, Resource Agent, Oconto County - UW-Extension, P. O. Box 19, Oconto, WI 54153.

Comment has been received by this office questioning the need to purchase lands other than those immediately adjoining the river bank. The need for protecting the river and providing adequate fish habitat is recognized. The purchase of field lands for wildlife habitat improvement is seen by some as unnecessary and of some burden to local taxing jurisdictions.

DNR response: In some cases it is necessary to buy more than the immediate river bank to protect the resource because of the steep slopes and possible erosion problems. The task force has no intentions of buying field lands for wildlife improvement. This is a fishery area with the stated goal:...."to enhance the area as a high quality fishery....."

Mr. Henry Kolka, Chairman, Wild Resources Advisory Council, Eau Claire, WI 54701.

The South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area Master Plan Concept Element Task Force, of Milton Burdick, Leroy Lintereur and Phil Anderson have produced an exceptionally fine document. In spite of some seemingly insurmountable obstacles the stream managers have and are determined to continue to enhance the quality of the stream and offstream habitat. WRAC tips their collective hats to the Task Force.



### General Review

The Wild Resources Advisory Council wishes to congratulate the South Branch, Oconto River Fishery Area Task Force of Milton Burdick, Leroy Lintereur and Phil Anderson for formulating an exceptionally fine Master Plan Concept Element. Though only controlling 35 percent of the present approved acreage goal of 1,257.4 acres, the fishery managers, through some astute manipulations, are in position to enhance 90 percent of the stream environment. As the British would say "it is a bloody miracle."

The Council is also very pleased with the Task Force's sensitivity to stream corridor aesthetic and concern for habitat diversity. Most trout fishermen and women and occasional nonfishing naturalists treasure their hours on the stream, not in the number of fish they creel, but in the natural beauty that surrounds while executing their fishing skills. WRAC urges that stream corridor aesthetics, as a concern, play a much larger role in fishery managements than it generally does.

### Comments and Recommendations

#### 1. Page 1 Goals.

Excellentlly stated Goals. One of the best reviewed by WRAC. All aspects of fishery ecosystem and its use are recognized.

#### 2. Page 1. Additional Annual Benefits. Two suggestions.

- a. Insertion of nature study, in item 1 between including and berry picking.

DNR response: Agreed. Nature study will be added as suggested.

- b. Addition of following phrase especially in the stream corridor to end the sentence in item 3. In the opinion of the WRAC, the addition would add meaningful stature to the statement.

DNR response: Agreed. Changed as follows: ".....the aesthetic nature of the property, especially in the stream corridor."

#### 3. Page 3. First paragraph top of page.

The section under Recommended Management and Development Program is exceptionally well planned and justified. WRAC recommends that installation of bank covers receive more detailed explanation. According to DNR release, your project was awarded \$14,480 from trout stamp fund in 1980 for this purpose. The Council is interested to know what cover patterns are planned for the project.

DNR response: The \$14,480.00 from the trout stamp fund was assigned to a stream improvement project on the 1st South Branch, Oconto River - not the South Branch, Oconto River. The 1st South Branch, Oconto River, is a feeder to the South Branch approximately 10-15 miles upstream and not in the approved boundary of this fishery area.





4. Charts labelled figures 2, 3 and 4 on pages 2, 4 and 9.

The charts are very adequate and correlate generally very well with the text. The Council has a couple of questions related to Figure 3 on page 4.

- a. Since \$14,480 of trout stamp money is designated for bank cover, wouldn't it be advisable to include it in the legend and have it shown on the chart.

DNR response: As explained above, the \$14,480 was assigned to the 1st South Branch, Oconto River, not the South Branch, Oconto River. They are different streams.

- b. Figure 3 also shows a series of dashed double trails. These are not identified on the chart or in the text. If they are not relevant, why show them?

DNR response: These are firelanes on Oconto County Lands and were left on to show the access roads to the river from the north side.

- c. A minor correction suggested for Figure 4. The east terminal line showing the limits of class I trout waters should end at junction of the South Branch and Highway 32 and not continue to Roman numeral two.

DNR response: Roman numeral II has two functions: it designates that portion of Pecore Creek that is class II and that portion of the South Branch from Highway 32 downstream that is also Class II.

5. Page 5. Fourth paragraph from the top of page.

Very commendable for considering "big tree silviculture" for specified areas. Such a program would be a life saving asset for particularly some avian species that live in this type of habitat.

6. Page 5. Last paragraph of this heading. Near middle of page.

WRAC recommends that the Task Force not wait for state funding to complete the "biological inventory." Considering existing and near future economic conditions, a long delay is sure to occur. The Council recommends that specie inventories be initiated using staff and public talent available in the vicinity of the fishery area. How about the university projects?

DNR response: No funds are presently available, but some university student may want such a project for master's degree work.

7. Page 7. Birds under heading Fish and Wildlife.

WRAC recommends that out of the potential 135 breeding bird species, a working list be established of the most common nesting birds along the periphery of the trout stream. This could be a boon for a frustrated fisherman who has just lost a big one--study the bird life and restore his cool.



DNR response: No funds - maybe a project for college student or "bird watchers" group.

8. Page 7. Mammals.

The Task Force has provided a fair working list for mammals. WRAC recommends the expansion of this inventory by about another dozen species. For fishermen or women, listing of common reptiles and amphibians would be an asset in enjoying and interpreting this ecosystem.

DNR response: Again - no funds - college student project?

9. Page 8. Vegetative Cover.

Impressive formula for managing forested lands of the fishery area. Unfortunately, the volume lacks the breath and the depth to follow pure forestry management guidelines. WRAC considers the commercialization of forested segments of the fishery area not feasible and over emphasized. Consider for instance objective (3). There is no compatability between harvesting mature timber and big tree silviculture identified earlier in the text (page 5).

DNR response: The size is commercially feasible. Tree farmers set up a commercial harvest program on as little as 5 acres of woodlot.

The Council is critical of the section labeled Vegetative Cover. Such a heading, in the opinion of WRAC, is expected to present plant specie inventories and discussion of patterns. If the Task Force is short on botany expertise, nearby institutions of higher learning could be invited to provide this information. Often colleges welcome suggestions for outdoor projects for their students.

DNR response: Timber types are set up from aerial photos. Identification of ground understory could be a student project if needed.

10. Page 8. Last paragraph on the page.

Considering the fragmentation of species inventories for the fishery area, the first sentence of the paragraph has very little meaning or validity.

DNR response: No comment.

11. Page 11. Current Use.

Canoeing and trout fishing are not compatable activities on any size stream of Wisconsin and even less so on smaller ones. WRAC hopes that solutions will be sought before it becomes a major issue. Managers should begin to formulate their judgements and pass them on to the bureaus.

DNR response: Answered on page 10 to comments from Green Bay Trout Unlimited Chapter.



12. Page 12 and 13. Alternatives.

Though the Fishery Task Force does not recommend a preferred alternative directly, it does line up most of its logic throughout the document in favor of enlarging the Fishery Area. WRAC also sees this alternative as the only positive way to go. This is too valuable a wild resource to gamble with its future by doing nothing or reducing its goals. The WRAC recommends that the alternative to Enlarge the Fishery Area be approved by the Natural Resources Board.

DNR response: Answered on page 9 - comments of Trout Unlimited, Green Bay Chapter.



DISTRICT OR BUREAU

DNR NUMBER

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT SCREENING WORKSHEET

(Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Title of Proposal: Master Plan--South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area

Location: County Oconto  
Township 29, 30 North, Range 17 East, ~~West~~  
Section(s) 1, 2, 3, 4, 11, 12, 19, 29, 30, 32, 33  
Political Town How & Breed

Project:

1) General Description (overview)

Located in west-central Oconto County, the property was designated as a watershed demonstration area in 1950 and approved boundary of 1,257.40 acres in 1969 (Fig. 1). Thru purchase or lease, state control totals 610 acres (Fig. 1). Containing brook and brown trout, this portion of the stream is classified as 3.5 miles Class 2 trout water and the remaining 7.6 miles, Class 1 (Fig. 2).

2) Purpose and Need (include history and background as appropriate)

The master plan will provide a long range plan to obtain land control for public recreation; to manage, preserve and protect a high quality trout fishery.

Authorities and Approvals:

- 1) Statutory Authority to Initiate 23.09
- 2) Permits or Approvals Required Project boundary approved 1969.
- 3) Participants notified of above requirements? ☐ Yes ☐ No
- 4) Does this proposal comply with floodplain and local zoning requirements? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Estimated Cost and Funding Source:

Estimated cost to purchase remaining parcels, \$600,000.00

Time Schedule:

Unknown. Parcels will be obtained as they come on the market at a fair market value with a willing seller situation.

## EXISTING ENVIRONMENT

### 1) Physical (Topography-soils-water-air-wetland types)

The project area has stained, hard water, which is slightly alkaline. Stream velocity is moderate, with a low gradient of 4.5 feet per mile. The soils are dominantly transported loamy, reddish drift. These are relatively fertile soils.

The watershed is composed of 161 square miles of which +60 acres are adjoining wetlands. There are 11.1 miles of trout water in the project area with an average width of 52 feet. The land is mostly forested, with smaller amounts of cultivated fields.

### 2) Biological

#### a) Flora

Forested land comprises 69% of the project acreage; cultivated and idle fields, 25%, and upland brush and grass, 6% (Fig. 2).

Beds of Elodea are the most prevalent aquatic vegetation in the stream with several Potamogetons, Vallesnevia, and Saggitaria in lesser amounts.

#### b) Fauna

Indicator species are cottontail, white tail deer, black bear, red and grey squirrel, snowshoe hare, and bobcat.

The stream contains brook trout, brown trout, with a few mottled sculpin, white sucker, hog sucker, longnose dace, blacknose dace and pearl dace.

### 3) Social

The area provides public fishing, hunting, trapping, as well as canoeing, snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, hiking and bird watching.

### 4) Economic

Most of the project stream is surrounded by small farms. Although local residents use the area, considerable pressure comes from Green Bay and nearby cities. The latter often buy gas, food, refreshment, and bait from local stores.

### 5) Other (include archaeological, historical, etc.)

No archaeological sites or those of historical significance have been located within the boundary of this fishery project.



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## PROPOSED ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

---

### 1) Manipulation of Terrestrial Resources (include quantities -- sq. ft., cu. yds., etc.)

Master plans recommend construction of two small parking lots, installation of instream habitat devices for approximately four miles of stream, repairs to several eroded banks. (Fig. 3)

### 2) Manipulation of Aquatic Resources (include quantities -- cfs, acre feet, MGD, etc.)

Aquatic organisms will increase where instream devices are installed. Repairs to high banks will prevent erosion on to food-producing gravel areas.

### 3) Structures

Instream devices (half logs) are recommended for approximately four miles at 250 structures/mile.

Two small gravelled parking lots.

### 4) Other

Property lines will be surveyed, brushed, and signs erected. Fencing will be installed along property lines where adjoining property owner pastures livestock.

### 5) Attach maps, plans and other descriptive material as appropriate (list)

Fig. 1 -- Approved project boundary and property ownership.

Fig. 2 -- General land cover map and trout stream classification.

Fig. 3 -- Existing and planned development sites.

---

PROBABLE ADVERSE AND BENEFICIAL IMPACTS (Include Indirect and Secondary Impacts)

---

1) Physical Impacts

Stock piling materials for instream devices will detract from natural setting until installation is completed. Available parking lots will prevent off-road vehicle travel and destruction of natural environment.

2) Biological Impacts

Instream devices will increase food and cover for trout. The trout population will increase in these areas. Stream velocity will increase near devices and expose gravel. Stream bank vegetation in the vicinity of the bank rip-rapping projects will be disrupted during construction but will revegetate shortly. Seeding and/or sod will be added.

Master plan, in general, promotes preservation and protection of present environment for fish and wildlife.

3) Socioeconomic Impacts

a) Social

Master plan recommends purchase of additional lands within boundary to provide more area for public recreation. Additional public lands and stream improvement (more trout) should increase fishing pressure and other recreational uses.

b) Economic

The increased fishing opportunity and recreational use would have slight impact on the local economy. Public use usually involves a short trip with day use. Gas, food, refreshments, and bait may be purchased locally.

4) Other (include archaeological, historical, etc.; if none, so indicate.)

None.

---

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4) Other (include archaeological, historical, etc.; if none, so indicate.)

None.



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## PROBABLE ADVERSE IMPACTS THAT CANNOT BE AVOIDED

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Some small animals and insects may be disturbed when constructing the small gravel parking areas. Construction equipment will cause some noise and air pollution. Some brush will be destroyed when driving equipment to project sites and surveying property lines.

---

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SHORT-TERM USES OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND THE MAINTENANCE AND ENHANCEMENT OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

---

Installation of stream devices and construction of the parking areas will cause some short term impact at construction sites.

Recommendations in the master plan assure additional lands for public recreation, preservation and protection of the present environment, and increased productivity of the trout stream.

---

## IRREVERSIBLE OR IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES IF ACTION IS IMPLEMENTED

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### 1) Energy

Gas, oil, and lubricants from chain saws and construction equipment will be lost.

### 2) Archaeological and historic features or sites

None.

### 3) Other

None.

---

ALTERNATIVES (No Action-Enlarge-Reduce-Modify-Other Locations and/or Methods. Discuss and describe fully with particular attention to alternatives which might avoid some or all adverse environmental effects.)

---

Do Nothing

If management practices were suspended, trout habitat would deteriorate. Our present ownership parcels are isolated by private lands. If we do not purchase additional lands, increased public use will overflow on to private lands and cause a serious public relations problem.

Enlarge Project

The present project boundary permits a sufficient buffer between private lands and the stream. Enlarging the boundary would involve the purchase of valuable agricultural lands and adds little protection to the trout stream. Oconto County lands on the northeast side assure public access and proper land management. The northwest boundary could be enlarged to include a mile of stream to the Menominee Indian Reservation boundary, but it is not vital to the project.

Reduce Project

Any reduction would cause a serious public relations problem with those sportsmen and governmental units who endorsed the project. Reduction in size would be contrary to the property goal set by the Natural Resources Board in 1969.



---

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EVALUATION (Discuss each category. Attach additional sheets and other pertinent information if necessary.)

---

- 1) As a result of this action, is it likely that other events or actions will happen that may significantly affect the environment? If so, list and discuss. (Secondary effects)

No. Some increase in fishing and other recreational uses may be noted with the purchase of additional lands, but not enough to have an adverse impact on the environment.

- 2) Does the action alter the environment so a new physical, biological or socio-economic environment would exist? (New environmental effect)

More land will be available for public use.

Improved stream cover will also increase aquatic organisms, resulting in more and larger trout available to the angler.

- 3) Are the existing environmental features that would be affected by the proposed action scarce, either locally or statewide? If so, list and describe. (Geographically scarce)

There are no other large trout streams with these features in southern Oconto County or in the neighboring Fox Valley counties.

- 4) Does the action and its effect(s) require a decision which would result in influencing future decisions? Describe. (Precedent setting)

No. Recommendations in the master plan are similar in nature to others that have been submitted for trout waters throughout the state.

- 5) Discuss and describe concerns which indicate a serious controversy? (Highly controversial)

No serious controversy over past activities on this project. Local farmers and sportsmen are in favor of plans.

- 6) Does the action conflict with official agency plans or with any local, state or national policy? If so, how? (Inconsistent with long-range plans or policies)

No.

- 7) While the action by itself may be limited in scope, would repeated actions of this type result in major or significant impacts to the environment? (Cumulative impacts)

Repeated actions of this type will assure preservation of trout stream environments.

- 8) Will the action modify or destroy any historical, scientific or archaeological site?

No.

- 9) Is the action irreversible? Will it commit a resource for the foreseeable future? (Foreclose future options)

No.

- 10) Will action result in direct or indirect impacts on ethnic or cultural groups or alter social patterns? (Socio-cultural impacts)

No.

- 11) Other

None.

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No.

- 11) Other

None.



Date	Contact	Comments
1951	A. Odau	Agreed to project boundary
1951		Gillett Sportsmen's Club ok'd project.
1951		Various sportsmen from G. Bay area ok'd project.
1951	J. Hovind	Agreed to cooperate with forestry program.
1962	Co. Board	Oconto Co. Board approved project and gave easement.

# RECOMMENDATION

EIS Not Required ☒

Analysis of the expected impacts of this proposal is of sufficient scope and detail to conclude that this is not a major action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. In my opinion therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required before the Department undertakes this action.

Refer to Office of the Secretary ☐

Major and Significant Action: Prepare EIS ☐

Additional factors, if any, affecting the evaluator's recommendation:

SIGNATURE OF EVALUATOR <i>Milton E. Burdick</i>	DATE 2-2-81
--	----------------

CERTIFIED TO BE IN COMPLIANCE WITH WEPA	
DISTRICT OR BUREAU DIRECTOR (OR DESIGNEE)	DATE

APPROVED (if required by Manual Code)	
DIRECTOR, BEI <i>HS Druckenmiller</i>	DATE 6/4/82

Comments received do NOT require EAM modification  
*Foreham*

This decision is not final until approved by the appropriate Director and/or Director, BEI.

Copy also sent. *N. Nichols*  
*Burdick*  
*Fossbender*  
*Hacker*





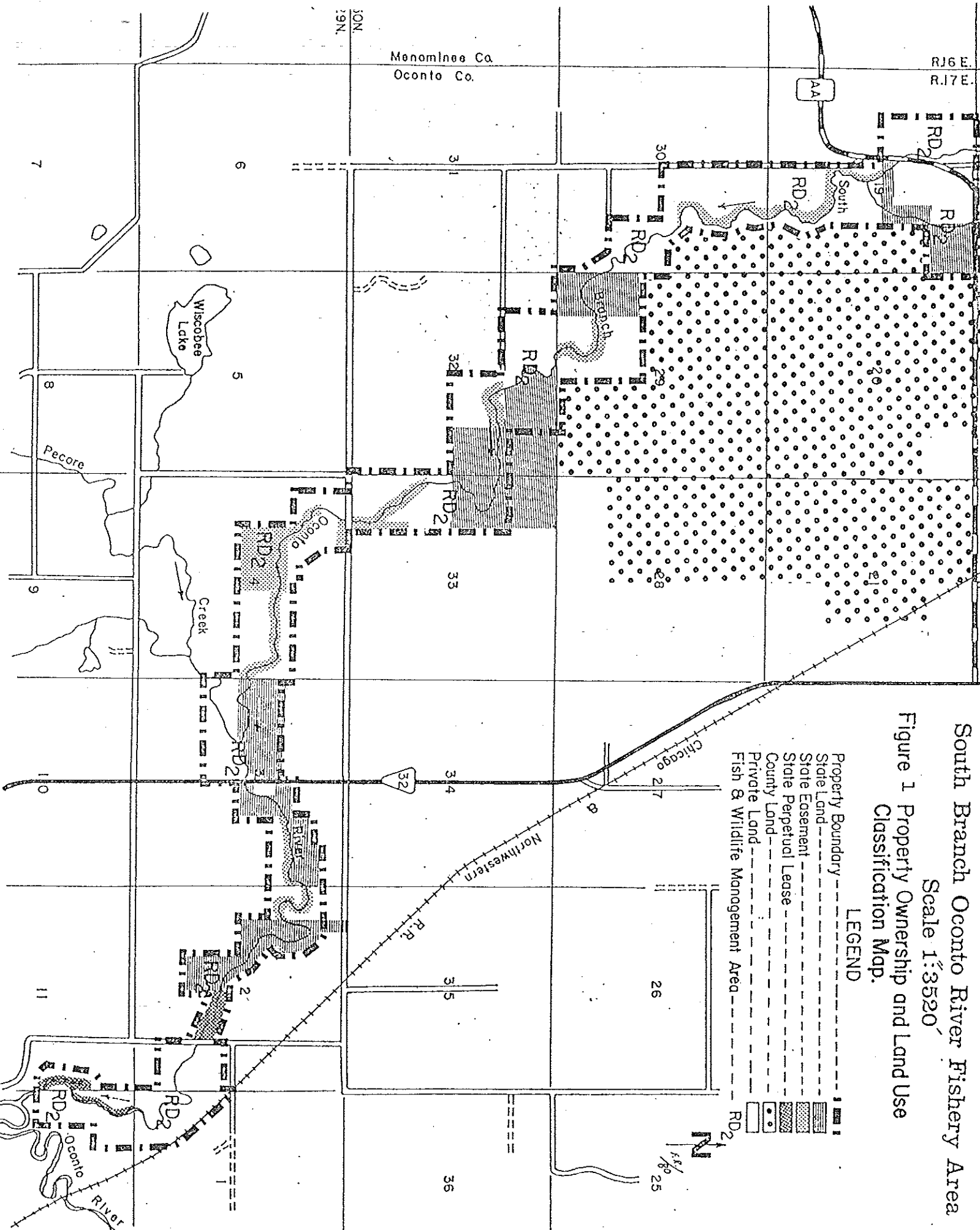




# South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area

Scale 1"=3520'

Figure 1 Property Ownership and Land Use Classification Map.









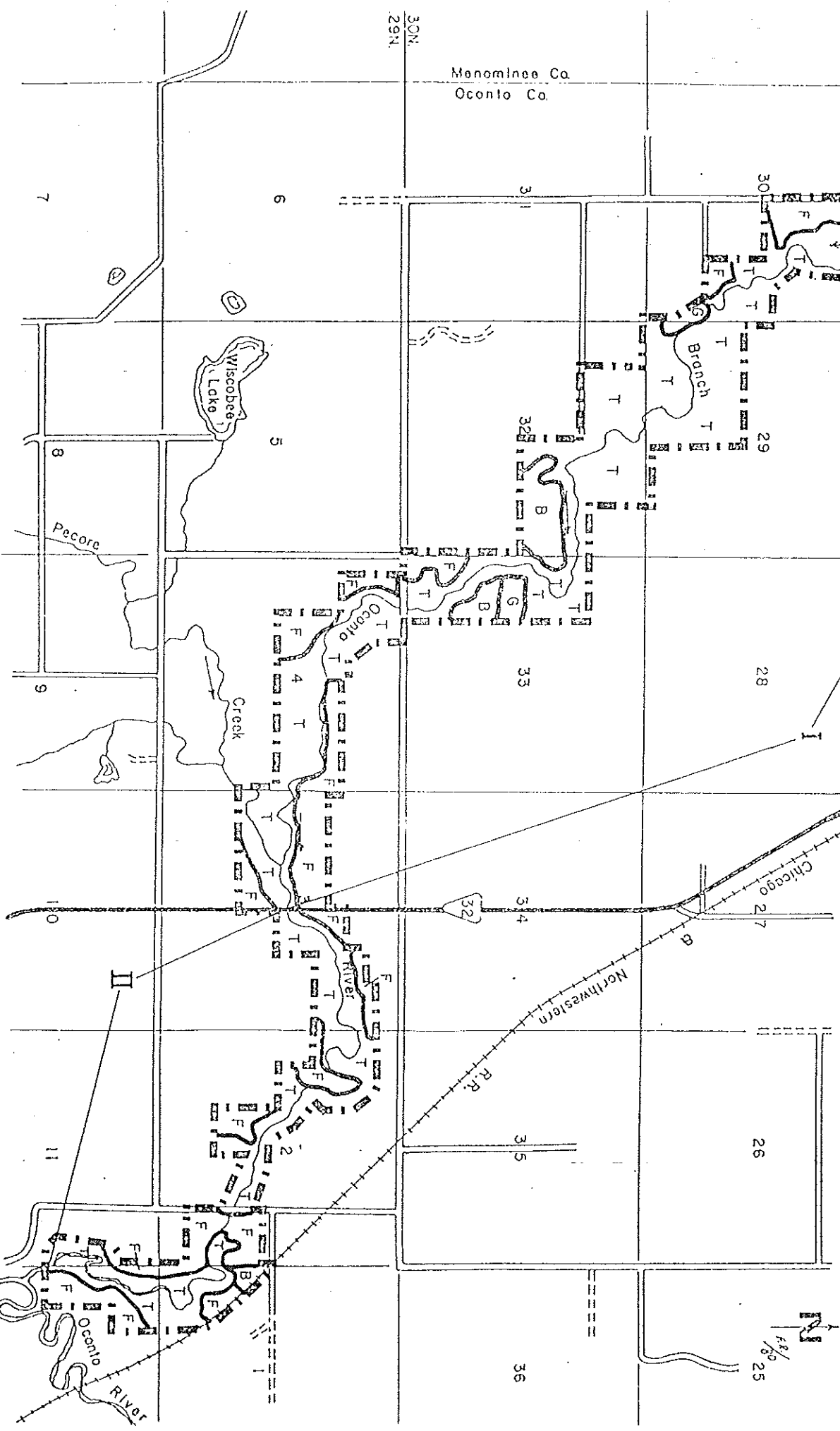
RJ6E  
RJ7E

Manominee Co.  
Oconto Co.

30N  
29N

South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area  
Scale 1"=3520'  
Figure 2 General Cover Map.

- LEGEND
- Property Boundary - - - - -
  - Grassland - - - - - G
  - Timber - - - - - T
  - Class I Trout Water - - - - - I
  - Brush - - - - - B
  - Class II Trout Water - - - - - II
  - Cropland - - - - - F









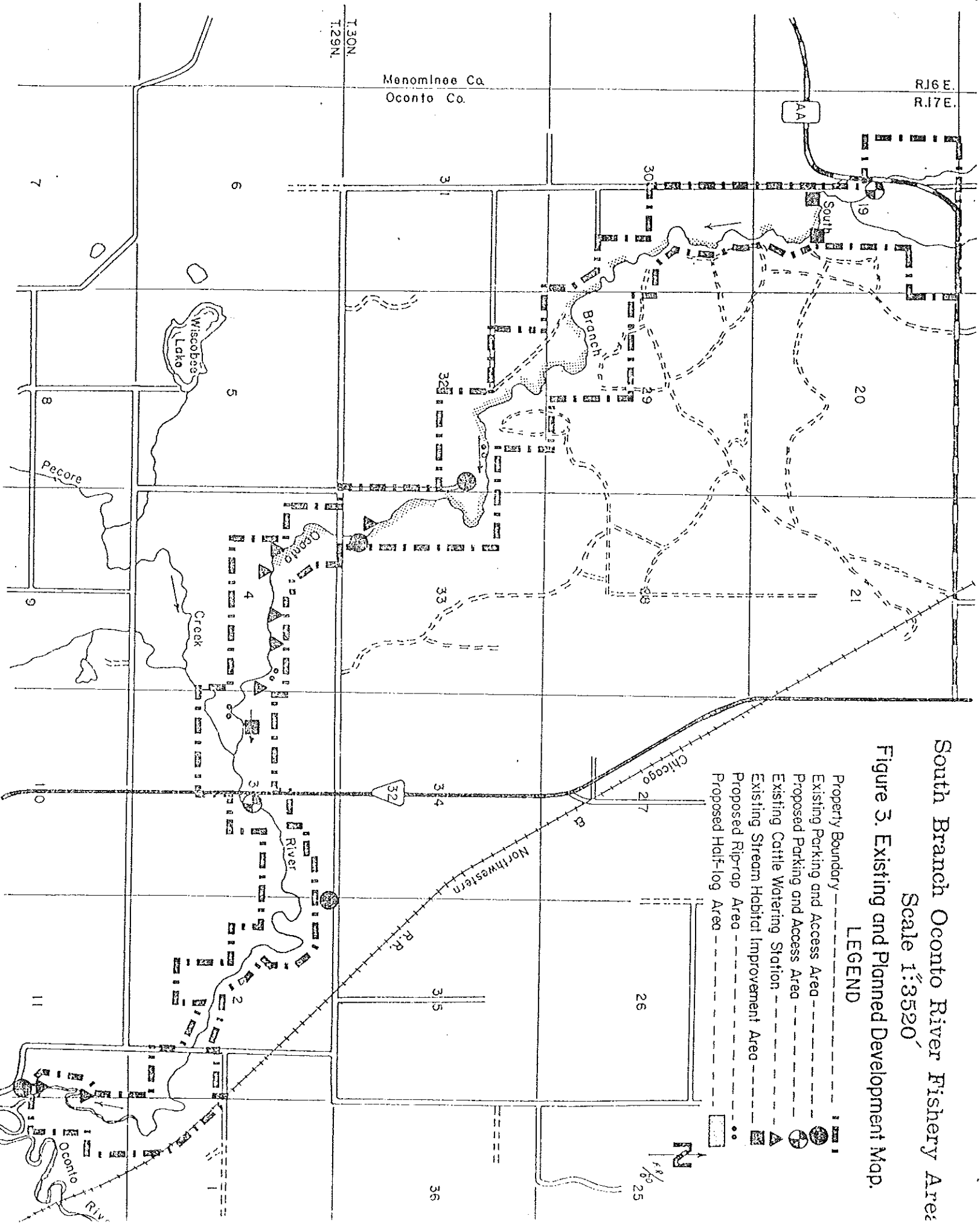


# South Branch Oconto River Fishery Area Scale 1:3520'

Figure 3. Existing and Planned Development Map.

## LEGEND

- Property Boundary - - - - -
- Existing Parking and Access Area - - - - -
- Proposed Parking and Access Area - - - - -
- Existing Cattle Watering Station - - - - -
- Existing Stream Habitat Improvement Area - - - - -
- Proposed Rip-rap Area - - - - -
- Proposed Half-log Area - - - - -









# CORRESPONDENCE/MEMORANDUM

STATE OF WISCONSIN

Date:

File Ref: 2100

To: Master Plan Reviewers

Date of Routing \_\_\_\_\_

From: Charles E. Higgs

Subject: Master Plans - District Staff Review

With the high priority being placed on Master Planning it is important that all Resource Management and Environmental Impact District Staff people give a meaningful review of all plans we forward to Madison.

I am asking you to give careful consideration while reviewing this plan. If time does not permit you to get at it soon, move it along and do not sign off, it will come back to you. The office of District Director should be the last to see it. I expect the total review time to be less than 30 working days.

This letter will accompany all plans to the Division Administrator so the responsible bureau in Madison will know who has seen it and what their comments were.

## MASTER PLAN

FUNCTION	REVIEWER	DATE	COMMENTS (SEPARATE PAGES IF NECESSARY)
Envir. Impact	R.F.V.	7/80	See Attached - signed off
Parks & Rec.	D.R.	7/80	Require signed slip - " "
Fish Mgt.	C.C.V.	7/80	See Attached " "
Forest Mgt.	M.K.V.	7/80	" " " "
Wildlife Mgt.	J.R.V.	7/80	" " " "
Park Planning	D.R.V.	7/80	" " " "
Real Estate	RA	7/80	" " " "
Office Dist. Dir.		-	

EMOP